

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 41 as indicated below.

1. (Previously presented) For use in a computer and associated storage medium, a computer game customized for a predetermined user, in which the user, through a user interface, performs one or more tasks generated by the computer within a virtual environment, said environment comprising a virtual three-dimensional dental image of at least one tooth of the user; and said one or more tasks comprise improving a certain virtual condition associated with said at least one tooth.

2. (Original) A computer game according to claim 1, wherein said virtual image comprises a plurality of teeth of at least a continuous section of teeth.

3. (Original) A computer game according to claim 2, wherein said virtual image comprises substantially all teeth of at least one jaw.

4. (Original) A computer game according to claim 3, wherein said virtual image comprises substantially all teeth of both the upper and lower jaws.

5. (Original) A computer game according to claim 4, wherein the user can manipulate the mutual orientation of the two jaws.

6. (Original) A computer game according to claim 3, wherein said condition is an inappropriate relative position or orientation of at least one tooth or of a jaw; and said one or more tasks comprise re-orientation of one or more teeth.

7. (Original) A computer game according to claim 4, wherein said condition is an inappropriate relative position or orientation of at least one tooth or of a jaw; and said one or more tasks comprise one or more of re-orientation of one or more teeth, or changing relative position of the two jaws.

8. (Original) A computer game according to claim 1, wherein said condition is a disorder in or lack of structural integrity of one or more teeth, and said one or more tasks comprise improving or fixing said disorder or lack of structural integrity.

9. (Original) A computer game according to claim 8, wherein said disorder or lack of structural integrity comprises damage resulting from one or more virtual infectious agents and said one or more tasks comprise elimination of said agents.

10. (Original) A computer game according to claim 6, wherein said one or more tasks are being performed by applying virtual rules, tools or components, corresponding to manner of dental, personal or orthodontic treatment of teeth or jaws.

11. (Original) A computer game according to claim 7, wherein said one or more tasks are being performed by applying virtual rules, tools or components, corresponding to manner of dental, personal or orthodontic treatment of teeth or jaws.

12. (Original) A computer game according to claim 8, wherein said one or more tasks are being performed by applying virtual rules, tools or components, corresponding to manner of dental, personal or orthodontic treatment of teeth or jaws.

13. (Original) A computer game according to claim 9, wherein said one or more tasks are being performed by applying virtual rules, tools or components, corresponding to manner of dental, personal or orthodontic treatment of teeth or jaws.

14. (Original) A computer game according to claim 10, wherein said virtual rules comprise rules of movements of teeth or jaws corresponding to such in a real-life orthodontic treatment.

15. (Original) A computer game according to claim 11, wherein said virtual rules comprise rules of movements of teeth or jaws corresponding to such in a real-life orthodontic treatment.

16. (Original) A computer game according to claim 12, wherein said virtual rules comprise rules of movements of teeth or jaws corresponding to such in a real-life orthodontic treatment.

17. (Original) A computer game according to claim 13, wherein said virtual rules comprise rules of movements of teeth or jaws corresponding to such in a real-life orthodontic treatment.

18. (Original) A computer game according to claim 10, wherein said virtual tools or components comprise virtual personal mouth hygiene tools.

19. (Original) A computer game according to claim 11, wherein said virtual tools or components comprise virtual personal mouth hygiene tools.

20. (Original) A computer game according to claim 12, wherein said virtual tools or components comprise virtual personal mouth hygiene tools.

21. (Original) A computer game according to claim 13, wherein said virtual tools or components comprise virtual personal mouth hygiene tools.

22. (Original) A computer game according to claim 10, wherein said virtual tools or components are virtual orthodontic components corresponding to real-life orthodontic components.

23. (Original) A computer game according to claim 11, wherein said virtual tools or components are virtual orthodontic components corresponding to real-life orthodontic components.

24. (Original) A computer game according to claim 12, wherein said virtual tools or components are virtual orthodontic components corresponding to real-life orthodontic components.

25. (Original) A computer game according to claim 13, wherein said virtual tools or components are virtual orthodontic components corresponding to real-life orthodontic components.

26. (Original) A computer game according to claim 10, wherein said virtual rules permitting elimination of virtual infectious agents from the virtual teeth.

27. (Original) A computer game according to claim 11, wherein said virtual rules permitting elimination of virtual infectious agents from the virtual teeth.

28. (Original) A computer game according to claim 12, wherein said virtual rules permitting elimination of virtual infectious agents from the virtual teeth.

29. (Original) A computer game according to claim 13, wherein said virtual rules permitting elimination of virtual infectious agents from the virtual teeth.

30. (Original) A method for a user to play a game in a computer, comprising: (a) extracting data from a storage medium, the data being representative of a virtual environment comprising a virtual three-dimensional dental image of at least one tooth of the user, and displaying said virtual environment; and (b) performing, in response to a user command, one or more tasks within a virtual environment to obtain a modified environment and displaying same; said one or more tasks comprise improving a certain virtual condition associated with the at least one tooth.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 30, comprising an additional step of: (c) storing data representative of said

modified environment in a storage medium.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 30, wherein step (b) is repeated a plurality of times.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 32, wherein said virtual three-dimensional dental image comprises substantially all teeth of at least one jaw.

34. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein said virtual three-dimensional dental image comprises substantially all teeth of both jaws.

35. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein said virtual three-dimensional dental image comprises substantially all teeth of both the upper and lower jaws of the individual.

36. (Original) A method according to claim 30, wherein said dental image represents teeth of the user.

37. (Original) A method according to claim 30, comprising the following step: (b1) manipulating, in response to a user command, the relative position or orientation of at least one tooth or of a jaw, wherein step (b1) is carried out either before, simultaneously

or after step (b).

38. (Original) A method according to claim 37, wherein the manipulation involves use of virtual orthodontic components corresponding to real orthodontic components used in actual orthodontic treatment.

39. (Previously presented) A method according claim 30, comprising the following step between steps (a) and (b): (a1) providing virtual tools or components for the user's selection for performing said one or more tasks.

40. (Original) A method according to claim 39, wherein said virtual tools or components comprise virtual tools corresponding to real-life personal dental hygiene tools or virtual components corresponding to real-life orthodontic components.

41. (Currently amended) A computer program encoded on a computer-readable storage medium comprising: computer-readable instructions ~~encoded on a computer-readable storage medium and~~ adapted for carrying out the following steps:

(a) extracting data from a storage medium, the data being representative of a virtual environment comprising a virtual three-dimensional dental image of at least one

tooth of a user, and displaying said virtual environment;
and

(b) performing, in response to a user command from said user, one or more tasks within a virtual environment to obtain a modified environment and displaying same; said one or more tasks comprise improving a certain virtual condition associated with said at least one tooth.

42. (Previously presented) A program product stored on a computer readable storage medium comprising code means adapted for carrying out method steps of:

(a) extracting data from a storage medium, the data being representative of a virtual environment comprising a virtual three-dimensional dental image of at least one tooth of a user, and displaying said virtual environment;
and

(b) performing, in response to a user command from said user, one or more tasks within the virtual environment to obtain a modified environment and displaying same; said one or more tasks comprise improving a certain virtual condition associated with said at least one tooth.

43. (Previously presented) A data carrier comprising: a computer-readable storage medium with an embodied computer readable

code for carrying out the steps of:

(a) extracting data from a storage medium, the data being representative of a virtual environment comprising a virtual three-dimensional dental image of at least one tooth of the user, and displaying said virtual environment; and

(b) performing, in response to a user command from said user, one or more tasks within the virtual environment to obtain a modified environment and displaying same; said one or more tasks comprise improving a certain virtual condition associated with said at least one tooth.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant arranged, through his attorneys, to conduct a telephone interview with Examiner Nguyen and his Supervisor, SPE Andrea Wellington, on October 19, 2004. On the appointed date, the SPE was not available for the telephone interview. After discussing briefly whether there was a motivation to combine the Chishti reference with the non-analogous art cited in Fabricant, it became apparent that the Examiner did not have authority to reach agreement, and the interview was terminated by Applicant's counsel.

Applicant would like to take this opportunity to thank SPE Thai for the courtesy extended during the brief telephone interview held on January 17, 2005. In accordance with the discussions held during the interview, Applicants provide arguments which, it is respectfully submitted, will overcome the rejection under §§103 and 112, and place this application in condition for allowance.